



# Glenn Grothman

2011-2012  
LEGISLATIVE  
SESSION

STATE SENATOR FOR THE 20TH SENATE DISTRICT

*Your Conservative Voice In Madison...*

***How the United States and the State of Wisconsin are Working to Encourage Single Motherhood and Discouraging Children in 2-Parent Families***

**The Family is the Center of a Free and Independent Society**

This is Why the Abolition of the Family Was a Goal of Karl Marx and has been for Atheistic Socialists Ever Since



Recommendations for Wisconsin's Legislators, Churches, Civic Groups, and Concerned Citizens to Restore Our Families

State Senator Glenn Grothman

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# America's Biggest Problem: The Breakdown of the Family

We are all grateful when children are not aborted. Nevertheless, out-of-wedlock births have grown from 10.7-percent in 1970 to 41-percent last year. Also, unlike 1970, almost none of those children are placed for adoption. This despite (or because of) the fact that for the past 40 years we have had increasingly aggressive sex ed programs in the schools, and now the government spends millions of dollars giving out free birth control to 15-year-old girls and recently boys without the knowledge or permission of parents. Clearly, pushing more contraceptives on high schoolers is not the answer.

The Left and the social welfare establishment want children born out of wedlock because they are far more likely to be dependent on the government. These children are 20 times more likely to wind up in prison and 9 times more likely to drop out of school. Well-known author, Charles Murray, said, children born out of wedlock, are "the single most important social problem of our time – more important than crime, drugs, poverty, illiteracy, welfare, or homelessness because it drives everything else." While we can talk about jobs, education, or crime, our economy and freedoms will inevitably decline as long as the number of children born out of wedlock keeps going up. Was this caused by the government, and if so, what are the politicians going to do to turn things around? Let's look at current programs that are given largely to single parents that they would almost certainly lose if two working parents were married. It should be pointed out that these programs are available for everyone, but since they are based on family income, it is the norm that a single parent with some or no income is eligible while a couple with two incomes are not. There is on occasion, some married couples that are eligible for these programs and some single parents do make too much money to be eligible.

The page to the right significantly understates the benefit of these tax-funded programs. I did not include WIC which in our scenario provides additional food for our mother's 3 year old child. Likewise, I did not include free school lunch or school breakfast for our 7-year-old. The BadgerCare benefit is significantly understated in that the government's low reimbursement rate causes the \$3,300 figure to be artificially low. Many recipients cheat by working for cash income and by not reporting income from a live-in boyfriend which is rarely caught. Our single mother does not have to worry about saving for her child's college education because that child will be much more likely to be eligible for \$8,000 per year in federal Pell Grants and the State of Wisconsin Higher Education Grant Program. Because they are income-based, many children of married couples will not qualify for these college scholarships. I have recently heard that some young girls do not get married because they themselves get free college tuition.



**Your Help is Needed Now to Restore Wisconsin's Families. Please contact Senator Grothman at 1-800-662-1227 or email him at [Sen.Grothman@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Grothman@legis.wisconsin.gov)**

## Births to Unmarried Mothers as a Percentage of All Births (1970 to 2006)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Wisconsin</u>	<u>United States</u>
1970	8.6%	10.7%
1980	13.8%	18.4%
1990	24.0%	28.0%
2000	29.3%	33.2%
2006	34.1%	38.5%

*Source: CDC/NCHS – National Vital Statistics System and Wisconsin Family Impact Seminars*

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# The Government's Message to America: Don't Get Married

***Let's Look at Some Government Programs Available to a  
Single Woman with Children Ages 3 and 7, Making \$15,000 Per Year***

## Low-Income Housing Assistance

One is eligible for low-income housing if your income is less than 50% of the median income for your area. For a family of 3, this HUD subsidy is \$31,800 for the Milwaukee area. For a family of 4, this would be \$35,340. The most you pay for rent is 30% of your income after subtracting utility payments. You can then deduct child care of \$480 for each dependent. A family of 3 is entitled to a \$980 apartment from which they pay \$350 per month for utilities and rent. This is a minimum subsidy of \$630 per month or \$7,560 per year.

Cash Value of Benefit  
Lost if the Mother Marries

\$7,560

## Wisconsin Shares - Day Care

Our mother is eligible for child care valued at \$9,200 per year. We are assuming one of the two children is in school and does not need daycare. If she is married to the father, she loses this benefit.

\$9,200

## Earned Income Credit

Because our mother makes under \$34,458 per year, she is eligible for a check of \$4,820. If she gets married, she loses the entire check. The State of Wisconsin will give her an additional credit of \$700 for not being married.

\$5,520

## Food Stamps

Family of 3 is eligible for up to \$525 in food stamps. This amount may be reduced as your income goes up or is adjusted for other factors including your rent, income, or utilities. A family which gets rental assistance would still get \$444 per month or \$5,328 per year. They would lose this entire amount if mom got married. To be eligible for some food stamps, a family of 3 must make under \$34,000 a year.

\$5,328

## BadgerCare

BadgerCare is a program for which all children are eligible, but our mother will only be eligible if her income is less than 185% of the federal poverty level which is \$33,866 for a family of 3 and \$40,792 for a family of 4. Our mom pays no premium. If she were to marry, she would lose the benefit valued at \$3,300 per year.

\$3,300

## Energy Assistance

Energy Assistance is a program for people whose income is less than 60% median income of the area. In the Milwaukee area, this would mean an income of approximately \$38,000 per year. The amount one receives each year varies with dollars available, but, last year (2009) the average check was \$688. Our mother would lose this amount if she were married.

\$688

## Milwaukee School Choice

If our mother lives in Milwaukee County, she is eligible for free private school tuition for her child, which has a value of \$6,442 per year. Eligibility for school choice is based on 185% of federal poverty which is \$33,866 for a family of 3 and \$40,792 for a family of 4 - the school choice program has a strong anti-family component.

\$6,440

**TOTAL BENEFITS LOST IF OUR SINGLE MOTHER MARRIES  
HUSBAND MAKING \$35,000 PER YEAR:  
\$38,036 (tax-free benefits )**

Prepared by Senator Glenn Grothman

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# Some Possible Solutions to Restore Wisconsin's Families

Politicians never address the breakdown of the family which is a huge problem. In so far as it is addressed, the answer always seems to increase the current benefits or be more aggressive in handing out contraception to younger children. At the end of the 2010 Legislative Session, I introduced Senate Bill 708 which attempts to begin addressing this problem.

Key provisions in the bill include the following:

## Low Income Housing

A complaint I receive is that sometimes apartments available with Section 8 vouchers are superior to apartments people pay for themselves as well as boyfriends illegally staying in these apartments. There is no asset limit for Section 8 housing. We should restrict the square footage to 50-percent of the average square footage for a rental unit in the area and an asset limitation of \$2,000 for non-seniors living in Section 8 housing. We can make it a criminal penalty if an adult not considered in the income calculation stays in the residence.

## Earned Income Credit

The Wisconsin Earned Income Credit should be replaced with a general tax exemption going to all Wisconsin taxpayers with dependents.

## Food Stamps

A complaint I frequently hear from clerks in food stores is the people on food stamps eat more generously than people not on food stamps. We should restrict the type of food which can be purchased with food stamps. This food would be more nutritious than most food now purchased with food stamps. Some may say this is harsh, but we cannot continue to have the single mom buy food that the married clerk at the food store could not afford. Recent news coverage has started detailing abuse in the Food Share program.

## Drug Testing

Testing for drug use will be required for eligibility for these government programs.

## Daycare

We have seen numerous reports featured in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* about the many fraud cases involving the Wisconsin Shares program. This is a \$400 million tax-funded daycare program. To reform this bloated program, my bill restricts the number of hours of free daycare to 40 hours per week per child. The bill also sets a minimum co-payment of \$2 per hour per child to discourage cheating in the system.

## School Choice

Income limitations in the Milwaukee School Choice program must end. Right now as a practical matter, many married couples are not eligible for the program because they make too much money with two incomes. It is inexcusable that a single mother making \$15,000 gets her kid out of the Milwaukee Public Schools but a married couple earning \$50,000 is stuck in the public schools.

## Legislative Action Needed in 2011

Ask elected officials what their plans are for saving the quickly eroding nuclear family in America.

I realize the above is going to be criticized as unnecessarily harsh. Right now, the out-of-wedlock birth rate in America is 41-percent. Unless we do something now, in 20 years it will be 60-percent. There are many single mothers who do a good job raising their children, but statistics also show that it is a very difficult thing to do and many of these children will have problems. If we do not address this situation, our country will not survive in the way we have come to know it. SOMETHING MUST BE DONE. It is also somewhat outrageous that some married couples feel they can only afford one or two children in part because they are paying excessive taxes to provide programs for someone else to have four or five children.



**For Further Information about my efforts to restore  
Wisconsin's families, please contact me at:**

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